The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1144 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1933 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary | VOL. 23, NO. 1

Things don't turn up in this world until somebody turns them up.—Garfield.

Unemployment Must Be Ended And Wages Raised, Green Declares

Wage-Cutting Policy of Employers and Discharge of Millions of Employes Reduced Labor's Buying Power Billions of Dollars and Accentuated the Depression—Workers' Ability to Purchase Commodities Must Be Restored and 30-Hour Week Applied to Absorb Unemployed.

New York.—An emphatic attack on the wage-cutting policy of American employers, a demand that the shortest work day and work week be immediately applied on a nationwide scale to provide jobs for millions of unemployed, and the pledge of cooperation with President Roosevelt in his efforts to bring about economic recovery, characterized the address on "Modern Behavior in a National Emergency," by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, at a luncheon given here by the New York Board of Trade.

Mr. Green's program for economic recovery also included more liberal credit, modification of restrictive anti-trust laws, elimination of child labor, a flexible currency, and Government control of credit.

"The point reached in the declining trend of wages, commodity prices and material values has produced such a state of national chaos as to awaken a public feeling of grave apprehension," Mr. Green said.

"Underlying this downward trend in material values is a steady decline in physical, mental and spiritual forces, the effect of which cannot adequately be appraised.

"The lesson which the Nation is bound to sustain as a result of this experience will be keenly felt long after economic recovery has progressed to the point where industrial conditions may be regarded as normal.

Fallacy of Wage Cutting

Pointing out that the wage-cutting policy of those who own and control industry ruthlessly destroyed the buying power of the workers and thus reduced the volume of sales of manufactured commodities, Mr. Green continued:

"It has been a costly lesson. Many industrial managers are publicly admitting the mistake made, stating that today they have gone too far in the market-destroying policies. They now boldly assert that there cannot be either a revival of trade or economic recovery until buying power has been restored and confidence and faith in the Nation's industrial, economic and financial institutions are re-established.

Buying Power Reduced 25 Billion Dollars

"The soundness of this character of reasoning is established by the fact that in 1929 the total buying power of wage earners and salaried employes in the Nation totaled $53,252,000,000. It was reduced to $45,503,000,000 in 1930; to $37,741,000,000 in 1931; and to $28,066,000 in 1932. The buying power of the Nation's consuming market was $25,020,000,000 less in 1932 than in 1929. If an allowance is made for the reduced price in manufactured commodities amounting to 22.7 per cent, there would still remain a shortfall of buying power and of the Nation's consuming market amounting to $22,729,000,000.

"These figures represent facts which cannot be controverted. They prove that if the Nation is compelled to buy less of manufactured goods there must be a proportional decline in the sale of manufactured products.

"Here is the answer to why markets were destroyed, why there is a contraction of the Nation's consuming power, why factory gates are silent and mills, mines and workshops throughout the land."

End Unemployment

On the question of unemployment, Mr. Green said "there can be no hope for economic recovery until this problem is solved and millions of unemployed workers have been re-employed at decent wages fully commensurate with the requirements of American standards of living."

"There are many causes which have contributed toward the creation of the distressful situation through which the Nation is passing. Labor understands them quite well," he continued. "It is proper for these causes to be kept in mind when remedies are suggested. But the time cannot be given at the base of our national distress can only be considered through effective action and Labor will exercise all its power and influence to bring this about.

"Labor has offered the following remedies for alleviation of unemployment and human distress:

High Wages, 30-Hour Week

"First, the prevention of buying power through the establishment and maintenance of high wage standards. In the opinion of Labor the time has arrived when wage-cutting should end and when corporations and humane employers should boldly and courageously lead in announcing increases in wages to all employes. There must be an increase in wages and commodity prices before unemployment can be overcome.

"Second, in order to take up the slack of unemployment and to deal constructively with the problem of mechanized industry, the five-day work week and the six-hour work day should be generally and universally applied.

"Third, the creation of credit facilities so that both small and large employers of labor may finance production.

Liberal Credit

"If credit were made available and more elastic and liberal there are many employers who would venture into the field of production and thus work opportunities for many of the unemployed would be created.

Legislative Remedies

"These economic remedies which can be quickly and voluntarily applied should be supplemented by the following legislative remedies:

"A modification of restrictive anti-trust legislation containing protective provisions for safeguarding the public against exploitation and embodying within it the declared public policy of the United States toward Labor, labor organizations and industry.

"Child labor legislation which would eliminate the employment of children and which would serve to protect child life.

Flexible Currency

"A revision of banking laws and of the Federal Reserve Act so as to provide a greater degree of safety to depositors, a flexible currency plan which would adequately meet business and industrial needs, and constructive governmental control of credit facilities so as to prevent, so far as possible, an era of speculation such as occurred in 1929.

Social Justice

"It is the collective opinion of Labor that additional legislation providing for the enactment of social justice measures should be acted upon by the legislative bodies of the Nation at the earliest possible date.

"We have heard and any one lesson out of the distressing unemployment situation which has greatly impoverished the Nation, it is that constructive social justice measures must be enacted by the law-making bodies of the Nation."

Support the President

"There are evidences on every hand," Mr. Green continued, "that we have reached a national crisis and that, for the moment, it is difficult to see or understand what will be the outcome. The faith of the people is being subjected to a very severe test.

"In the midst of our trying and tragic experiences our duty is plain. We must exercise self-control. We must discipline ourselves. We must be calm in the face of a great emergency and we must face our responsibilities bravely and with unfailing courage.

"Naturally the people look to the President, the Chief Executive of the Nation, for leadership and constructive action. In order to strengthen his purpose, to give added forces to every effort and to chart a course designated to promote economic recovery, all classes of people must cooperate and must rally to the support of the President.

"Figuratively speaking, we are making our upon the forces which have caused financial collapse and economic disorganization. In order that we people and posterity we must unite wholeheartedly and in a common purpose in support of the President of the United States."

Safety for Savings

Safety for the savings of our people, and especially of the workers, is the paramount question which the collapse of our banking system has brought to the forefront.

Depositors have lost hundreds of millions of dollars by bank failures.

Fear for the safety of their money has led thousands and thousands of people to withdraw their deposits and resulted in the decree issued by President Roosevelt closing all banks for four days.

There is one deposit bank in the United States that is absolutely safe.

That bank is officially called "The United States Postal Savings System." It is owned by the United States Government and operated by the Post Office Department, with branch offices in thousands of post offices.

Deposits may be made from a minimum of ten cents up, with a maximum of $2,500 in the name of each depositor.

The Government pays two per cent annual interest on the deposits.

The deposits may be withdrawn wholly or in part at any time.

In the last year citizens desiring absolute safety for their savings swelled the deposits in the Postal Savings System to nearly one billion dollars.

There are two drawbacks to the system as now administered.

The first drawback is the secrecy which is imposed by the Post Office Department.

Under instructions issued by Walter F. Brown, Postmaster General under President Hoover, postmasters were told that information regarding the advantages of the Postal Savings System should generally be given out only "in response to specific inquiries."

This ban on information should be removed. Postmaster General Farley should instruct postmasters to acquaint all persons in their communities with the advantages and especially with the safety of the Postal Savings System.

The second drawback is the limit of $2,500 for each account.

This limit is imposed by statute law enacted by Congress at the demand of the bankers who wanted to get hold of depositors' money without the guarantee for its safety which the Government gives depositors in the Postal Savings System.

This $2,500 limit should be abolished and the Postal Savings System thrown open to all citizens regardless of the amount they desire to deposit.

The objection that abolishing the $2,500 limit will injure the private banks by reducing their deposits is essentially dishonest. The law prescribes that the Government postal savings funds in the banks in the district from which they reached the Postal Savings System, with the just proviso that the banks shall turn over to the Government adequate collateral to guarantee the safety of the deposits.

The chaos resulting from the collapse of our banking institutions has engenedered a deep fear among the masses for the safety of their savings.

A statesmanlike way to lessen this fear and impart confidence is to make the United States Postal Savings System available without unreasonable restrictions in every community.

Congress can do its part by removing the $2,500 limit on deposits.

Postmaster General Farley can do his part by abolishing the secrecy imposed on postmasters regarding the system and spreading information about it to every person in the United States.

The United States Postal Savings System is absolutely safe.

A Convert to A. F. of L. Wages Policy

The American Federation of Labor has insisted ever since the depression began that wage increases instead of wage cuts blaze the way to business recovery by enlarging rather than decreasing the ability of the masses to buy the commodities through the sale of which business recovery must come.

Now J. Henry Pew, president of the Sun Oil Company, announces his support of this policy. In his report to the stockholders of the company he declares that liberal wages and salaries and additional investments in improving plants and facilities are basic elements in rebuilding prosperity and making it permanent. Here is his message:

"Even before the depression it was plain that continued prosperity demanded the maintenance of buying power at a level which could be assured only by a general program of liberal wages and salaries.

"Capital would still have had reasonable reward and been available in adequate supply to finance every requirement of legitimate enterprise.

"Even when prosperity seemed boundless, some people believed that to distribute its fruits more liberally among salaried and wage-earning workers would best insure the buying and consuming power of the community.

"That would have been the best guarantee against the breakdown of consuming capacity which is now the greatest obstacle to improved business.

"Unfortunately, these considerations were less hospitably entertained before 1929 than they have been since.

"Nevertheless the company has continued its program of liberal expenditures for self-liquidating improvements. We have been able to keep, with very few exceptions, full force of employes at work without reductions in compensation.

"Recently we have intensified the effort to avoid reductions in employment or compensation."

In pursuance of this policy of plant expansion and full employment for employes, Mr. Pew told the stockholders that during 1932 the company expended $5,200,000 in improving its refineries and contemplates spending $4,000,000 for additions and betterments during 1933.

"We strongly recommend Mr. Pew's wage policy to those destroyers of American wage standards whose reactionary slogan has been wage reductions and more wage reductions despite the fact that following every broad wage cut the depression has sunk to lower levels.

Wage cutting employers should graduate from the school of economic ostriches, lift their heads from the sands of blindness, and join those employers with vision enough to see that prosperity can only return from an enlarged buying power vested in the millions of wealth producers.

COLLAPSE OF BANKING WILL ADD TO JOBLESS

President Green of A. F. of L. Says Employers Will Use Crisis to Throw Thousands of Workers Into Unemployed Army, Already Numbering 12,700,000—Work for Idle Must Be Provided to Restore Prosperity.

Washington.—The collapse of the banking system will result in a large increase in the number of unemployed, which already totals around 12,700,000, declared William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in his monthly statement on unemployment based on official reports from affiliated organizations.

"In the midst of the bank crisis we must not let unemployment sink into the background," Mr. Green said. "The American Federation of Labor estimate, based on Government figures, shows an increase of 400,000 in the number out of work from December to January. In January, 12,700,000 were unemployed. Official reports from trade union reports for February, the number out of work has not decreased since. This is a very high watermark for unemployment in the depression, and represents an increase of 2,400,000 since January, 1932.

Jobs and Work Time Reduced

"Unquestionably the bank crisis will increase unemployment. People have had to cut their buying to the lowest possible limit. This means fewer sales, and salesmen will be laid off; fewer orders to factories, and factory workers will lose their jobs.

"In addition, thousands of middlemen who were expecting to place orders will wait until conditions are certain-tied, cutting industrial activity still further. Jobs and work time will be reduced all along the line.

Jobless Workers Outlawed

"When the crisis is over, these workers will find that their employers are not so ready to take them back as they were to lay them off.

"Added to our present 12,700,000 unemployed will be those new unemployed, another group that becomes unable to buy, deprived of the chance of earning anything, cut off from the normal life of a self-respecting member of society.

"Business cannot recover until these unemployed go back to work by hundreds of thousands.

"Our Nation cannot recover its courage or its spirit while they are crushed by the humiliation of force dependence on charity.

"They must be restored to their proper place of partnership in our national enterprise. We look to the Administration to make this its next achievement.

Increase In Unemployment

"The largest increase in unemployment from December to January was due to the usual drop in retail sales after the Christmas trade. They were worse this year than usual.

"In Rochester and retail trade 430,000 lost their jobs in January and 125,000 in manufacturing. The winter season took a further toll of 65,000 jobs in building and road making and 56,000 on the docks, a total of 22,000, and a number of other minor lay-offs brought the total unemployment increase to 800,000.

"This is no greater than the normal seasonal increase, but there are still many more who must be fed, clothed and housed, deprived of the opportunity to produce wealth to earn their own way."

Fitzpatrick Joins League For Just Utility Rates

Chicago, Ill.—John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, became a member of the board of directors of the Utility Consumers and Investors League of Illinois, which is waging a fight for more reasonable utility rates and service, it was announced on the board include Harold L. Ickes; Carl Vrooman, Secretary of Agriculture under President Wilson; Prof. Paul Douglas of the department of economics of Chicago University; Prof. A. D. Hatton, head of the department of political science in Northwestern University.

In a radio talk given under the auspices of the League Prof. Douglas pointed out that high utility rates, in face of general reduction in wages and commodity prices, are a definite factor in prolonging the depression.

Labor Backs Roosevelt in Bank Collapse Emergency, Green Says

AFL President Demands Government Protection for Bank Deposits and Insists That Wage Increases Must Accompany Price Boosts Caused by Inflation.

Washington.—Complete cooperation and support of the American Federation of Labor to President Roosevelt in the national emergency caused by the breakdown of the banks was pledged by William Green, president of the Federation, in a statement dealing with the rights of the workers under conditions arising from the banking chaos.

Pointing out that under the collapse of our financial institutions the working people, already bearing the major burden of the depression, will suffer most, Mr. Green militantly declared that the savings of the masses deposited in the banks should come under the protection of the Government, and that if currency reform under inflated currency employers must increase wages so that living standards shall be protected.

Mr. Green's statement follows:

"If unemployment and distress grow out of the collapse of banks and their failure to function in a crisis Labor will demand that wages shall increase in an amount corresponding to an increase in commodity prices that cannot inevitably follow.

"No improvement in the distressing conditions could be hoped for or expected through some form of currency inflation, the buying power of Labor would remain standardized while commodity prices increased.

"The purchasing power of the masses of the people must keep pace with whatever increase in commodity prices may occur.

Workers Suffer Most

"The closing of banks and the collapse of the Nation's financial institutions would add to the misery of Labor.

"Working men and women will suffer most.

"The intense seriousness of the situation, however, calls for a continuation of self-imposed restraint and discipline and the exhibition of that character of courage and patience on the part of Labor which has thus far characterized their conduct under the most trying experiences.

"Labor is willing, anxious and ready to aid in bringing about economic recovery.

"It must do its part in the great emergency through which the Nation is now passing.

"Blood and treasure will be served, but instead great injury may be done if, at the moment, Labor should substitute panic for courage and hasty and ill-advised action for sound judgment.

Protect Savings

"The President of Labor, however, is that the lawmaking bodies of the Nation and those in control of our Government will take such steps as may be necessary to control the banking institutions of the country, to extend protection to the savings of the American Federation the people and to prevent the dissipation of the wealth of the people as has been placed them in the banks of the country in all good faith and confidence.

"Such legislative action will serve to restore confidence and faith which, for the moment, has been greatly impaired if not altogether destroyed.

Support the President

"The responsibilities growing out of this terrible experience caused by the failures of the banks to function rest heavily upon the President of the United States.

"The masses of people are looking to him for leadership and constructive advice.

"He deserves the encouragement, support and help of all classes of people, including Labor.

"In the existing grave emergency Labor will respond as it has in every instance by pledging to the President its full and complete cooperation and support."

AFL Committee Approves Samuel Gompers Memorial

New York.—The Gompers Memorial Committee at its meeting here inspected and approved the full-sized model of the Samuel Gompers Memorial which is to be unveiled in Washington next fall during the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor. The model was ready to go to the foundry.

In addition to William Green, chairman, and Frank Morrison secretary, the Committee included the following members of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor: Frank Duffy, first vice president; T. A. Rickert, second vice president; Matthew Woll, third vice president, and James Wilson, fourth vice president.

The inspection was made at the studio of Robert Aitken, the sculptor. The Committee also approved the landscape plan for the Memorial prepared by the firm of Vitale & Geiffert.

In a letter to Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, Charles Moore, secretary of the United States Commission of Fine Arts, said the Commission was much impressed by Mr. Aitken's work and had approved both the model and landscape plan. The Commission is composed of seven well qualified judges of the fine arts appointed by the President of the United States with the duty of advising upon the selection of models for statues and monuments under the authority of the United States and their location.

LaGuardia Supports Maryland Anti-Injunction Measure

Annapolis, Md.—Former Representative Fiorella LaGuardia of New York appeared before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Delegates of the Maryland General Assembly to urge the enactment of the Kimble anti-injunction and anti-yellow dog contract bill.

Mr. LaGuardia was presented to the Committee by Senator Robert Kimble of Allegany, who introduced the bill in the Senate after the Federal anti-injunction law, of which Mr. LaGuardia and Senator Norris of Nebraska were the authors.

Mr. LaGuardia said the Federal act was passed as a safeguard against the advance of an unbalanced economic system. With the passage of the Federal act he declared, there would be a rush back into the States where there are no such laws in order to "abuse the courts, not use them." In States where no concurrent legislation is passed the courts will be used as strike-breaking agencies, he said.

He pointed out that the Kimble bill is not designed to protect the commission of crime, but does it prevent the courts from issuing injunctions in labor disputes, but more clearly defines and drastically limits the instances in which such injunctions may be issued. In every case, he said, the courts must hold hearings before taking action. This, he explained may seem like unnecessary delay, but records show that injunctions have been issued solely on the ex parte affidavits of gangsters, thugs and others employed solely for that purpose.

The Kimble bill was also supported by Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor; Edward J. Tracy of the Federation's Labor Information Bureau and Henry F. Broening, president of the Baltimore Federation of Labor.

Sneed Chosen President Of Illinois Mine Workers

Springfield, Ill.—William J. Sneed of Herrin was named president of the Illinois district of the United Mine Workers of America, following the resignation of John H. Walker and other district officials. Mr. Sneed has served as an officer of the Illinois mine workers for many years and has frequently represented his local union in conventions of the Illinois State Federation of Labor. The new officials were appointed by Fox Hughes, and Thomas Hunter, secretary-treasurer.

In announcing the selection of the new officials, John L. Lewis, international president of the United Mine Workers of America, said the new executive board would carry out the policies of the United Mine Workers, carry out the instructions of the international executive board and settle the internal workings of the district organization.

Big Union Benefits Paid Street Railway Employes

Chicago, Ill.—The total benefits for the Chicago divisions of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America, international and local, for the year 1932 amounted to $47,806.75, according to figures made public by the Union Financial Secretary, Edward Lentz of the Association. The total includes funeral, disability, old-age benefits and funeral assistance.

"Any member who is really interested in the work of the Amalgamated Association, and who studies its record of results," said the Union Leader, "will realize that his membership affords him protection and benefits at a cost lower than any like performance on the continent, if indeed any similar performance can be cited."

Million and Three-Quarters Postal Employes in World

Berne, Switzerland.—With only two countries missing, China and Peru, the total number of postal service employes in the countries covered by the Universal Postal Union is one and three-quarters millions, according to figures made public by the Union. The United States employs 339,000 employes. Germany has 346,000; Great Britain, 220,000; Japan, 121,000; France, 116,000; British India, 107,000; Russia, 87,000; Czecho-Slovakia, 42,000; Poland, 39,000; Roumania, 36,000; Argentina, 25,000; Spain, Hungary and Italy, about 20,000 each; and Switzerland, 16,000.

Stricter Enforcement Of Shop Hours Asked

London, Eng.—Hoplen Morris, the Stipendiary magistrate at Lambeth Police Court, today fined five shops and a shopkeeper who had broken the law regarding the legal closing of his shop.

The infliction of this contemptuous penalty resulted in a deputation of 30 representatives from the Shop Assistants' Union, the National Union of Distributive Workers, and various trades associations calling on Sir John Gilmour, the Home Secretary, with the demand that he take steps to stop the flippant attitude of magistrates towards the observance of the Shop Hours Act.

$15 MONTHLY OLD-AGE PENSION IN INDIANA

State Legislature Enacts Measure Sponsored by United Mine Workers For Twelve Years.

Indianapolis, Ind.—"After a battle of twelve years organized labor, led by the old-age pension committee of the United Mine Workers of America, has succeeded in having an old-age pension law enacted in Indiana," declared the United Mine Workers Journal.

"The bill was signed by Governor Paul V. McNutt, and became operative within a short time. It is mandatory upon the counties to grant a pension of not more than $15 a month to indigent persons seventy years of age who have resided in the State fifteen years.

"No pension can be paid to a person who is an inmate of a charitable or a correctional institution, or to a husband and wife who have property exceeding $1,000 in value, or to a person who has transferred property to obtain a pension.

"It was estimated that the cost of administration of the law would amount to $500,000 the first year. Money used in the administration of the act would be paid out of the State general fund, and the State's and counties' portions of the pension would be paid out of their respective general funds. Each unit would pay one-half of the pension. Exclusive control of the administration of the act is placed with boards of county commissioners.

"The United Mine Workers of America is the result of the work of a fight to obtain an old-age pension law. Its old-age pension committee is composed of John Hutchinson, a pioneer member of the United Mine Workers; Evan Evans and William Mitchell, who have constituted the committee since it was appointed several years ago.

"Deserving of special commendation is John Hutchinson, secretary of the committee, on whom devolved most of the work helping to steer the bill through about waters.

"At the signing of the bill by Governor McNutt, in his office in the State House, Otto P. DeLuse, representing the Fraternal Order of Eagles, which has sponsored similar legislation in other States, Secretary Hutchinson of the United Mine Workers committee, and other labor leaders were present.

"A feature of the passage of the act was the presence in the Senate chamber of former Senator James J. Neidt of Whiting, who during his seventeen years' membership in that body led the fight at each session for the enactment of an old-age pension law. After the bill had passed, Senator Anderson of Greensburg, majority floor leader, introduced Neidt as the man 'who has carried the old-age pension banner for years in the Senate.'"

Maryland Jobless Insurance Bill Assesses the Workers

Annapolis Md. — Maryland would have a State-wide system of unemployment insurance under the provisions of a bill introduced in the House of Representatives by George Hofferbert, chairman of the judiciary committee, and seven other members of the House. Employers and employes would provide the fund by equal contributions. The bill prescribes benefits at a rate not to exceed 50 per cent of the employe's average wage for a maximum period of 20 weeks in any one year.

The method of providing the insurance fund the Hoffbert bill, which is based on a report of the Municipal Employment Stabilization Commission of Baltimore, differs from the American Federation of Labor model bill, which prescribes that the fund shall be built up exclusively by assessments on employers.

Musicians 1933 Convention Will Convene in Chicago

New York.—Joseph N. Weber, president of the American Federation of Musicians, announced that the thirty-eighth annual convention of the Federation will be held in Chicago on June 5 during the Century-Progress exposition.

London Labor Defends Social Services and Salaries

London, Eng.—Organized labor in London opened a vigorous campaign to defend London's social services and the wages of 80,000 municipal employes threatened by the "municipal reform" majority in the London County Council.

"The moves of the 'municipal reformers' threaten danger to London's well-being" said Herbert Morrison, secretary of the London Labor Party. "They seem to indicate that the 'municipal reformers' are willing to interfere still further with the efficiency of education, health, and housing services and to make an attack on wages and salaries, by reducing them.

"The result will be an attack on services which benefit the working and middle classes, and a further rise in unemployment, for much of which in London the Council is already responsible."

Pensions for Illinois Aged Postponed for Further Study

Springfield, Ill.—The Illinois Commission for the Study of Poverty and Dependence reported to Governor Henry Horner that it had been unable to ascertain the degree and extent of poverty among aged residents of the State necessary to a determination of the cost of an old-age assistance act and asked that the study be continued to obtain additional data.

The Commission declared that estimates of the cost of an additional system of old-age assistance should be made so "that the financing may be provided which will not bring disappointment to the beneficiaries of the act, or cause disaster to the public on the other."

Delaware Old-Age Pension Fund Too Small by $99,000

Dover, Del.—Delaware paid $167,316 in old-age pensions during 1932, according to the Secretary-Statistician of the Old-Age Welfare Commission. At the end of December, 1,565 persons were receiving pensions, and 1,295 new applications were on file of which the Commission estimated 828 are eligible and would receive pensions if funds were available. The present appropriation of $200,000 per annum will not permit payments to additional persons.

The average pension now paid is $9.84 per month. It would require an additional appropriation of $99,000 per annum to pay pensions to those who have applications on file.

Communism in England

Dublin, Irish Free State.—The Rev. Father O. F. Dudley in a lecture here on the menace of Communism, said the Red menace was not a fiction. It was a reality to which England had not yet awakened. He declared that in England at present 13 Communist organizations were at work. That a dozen revolutionary journals were being sold in London and the Provinces, and thousand of people were listening to wireless talks and instructions broadcast from Russia in English.

Workers Strike to Force Observance of Agreement

Rushden, Eng.—Shoe trimmers employed by John White's (Impregnable) Boots, Ltd., here struck to enforce their national agreement. The firm recently changed from day work to piecework system. The shoe trimmers alleged that under the day wage more work was exacted from the operatives than they were paid for. Although day work is permitted under the agreement the output required must not be greater than would be given under piecework for a corresponding wage. The firm has 1,200 employes.

Mr. White declared he would close his factory permanently unless the men returned to work immediately. The officials of the operatives' union said they would stand for the terms of the agreement.

North Carolina Unemployed Turned Into Tenant Farmers

Winston-Salem, N. C.—Turning jobless workers into tenant farmers at the rate of an average of 100 families a day is unemployment remedy set up by Winston-Salem's back-to-the-farm movement sponsored by Mayor George W. Coan, Jr., and the Social Service Exchange of which Miss Silmer Perkins is supervisor.

Mr. R. E. Gass, the director, began placing deserving unemployed families on available farms. Miss Perkins selects the families. The Social Service Exchange moves them and gives financial assistance until such time as the crops they raise will supply their needs.

Under the terms arranged by Mr. Gass, the landowners will furnish stock and farm tools. The families will be permitted to use enough of what they produce to keep them alive and in working condition. Then the landlords will come in and take a crack at the surplus products. The outlook is not bright for the back-to-the-farm unemployed.

JOBLESS INSURANCE BEFORE OHIO SOLONS

Columbus, Ohio.—The hearings on the Harrison-Keifer unemployment insurance bills before the joint session of the Labor Committee of the Senate and the Insurance Committee of the House came to a close with the conviction that those bills must be passed by far the best of the arguments.

At the hearing Prof. William Leiserson of Antioch College, chairman of the Ohio Unemployment Insurance Commission and Prof. Paul Douglas of the Commission in favor of the bills. W. E. Odom of Columbus spoke for the Manufacturers' Association and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce in opposition to the measure.

Senator Harrison, chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, read a statement from President Green of the American Federation of Labor, in relation to the attitude of manufacturers and Chambers of Commerce when the compulsion of Workmen's Compensation Bill was before the Legislature in 1913, declaring that they had vigorously opposed such legislation.

Senator Harrison also quoted Governor Cox, who was for the bill, as "definitely committed to unemployment insurance" and declared he was unfavorable to the legislation if the duty for the collection of premiums is postponed for two years.

"It has been quite generally conceded," he continued, "that the arguments for and against the legislation are the hearings that the advocates of unemployment insurance had the best of the case," declared T. J. Donnelly, Ohio Commissioner of Labor Statistics and of Labor. "The arguments of the opponents were those of the Commissioners, bureaucracy, injury to Ohio industry, and policies entering into the administration of the law.

"Both bills are now in the hands of the Senate committee and the House and Senate and it is hoped that they will have the courage and foresight to report favorably.

"The opposition is powerful and will make every possible effort to defeat the bills from being reported or voted upon by the present session of the General Assembly.

"In view of the last position of Governor White on this legislation, and the declaration of the national platform of the Democratic party favoring unemployment insurance by States there can be absolutely no excuse for any Democratic member of the Legislature refusing to vote for either the Senate or the House bill."